

Our Daily Bread

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AN AID TO PERSONAL AND FAMILY DEVOTIONS

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Thursday — November 1

Read: Romans 4:1-8

SPOILING THE FINISHED WORK

... God imputeth righteousness without works.

Romans 4:6

JOHN Ritchie tells of a country cartwright who was deeply concerned about his soul's salvation. Like the average sinner he was very zealous about working his way to Heaven. He could not see how it was possible to be saved without "doing something." His wife, who was a happy believer, invited a traveling evangelist to their home. She thought that while they were having tea together he might be able to deal with her husband in a tactful way, and yet bring home to him the truth of salvation by grace alone. The husband and the evangelist became quite friendly and the cartwright soon asked the visitor to accompany him to his workshop, for he wished to show him his handiwork. First he pointed to a wheel completely ready to put on, and then showed him another on his bench which was only half-finished. Lifting a plane, the man of God made as if he were going to strike it across the finely sandpapered spoke of the finished wheel. Like lightning the cartwright's hand went out and grasped his arm. "Oh, don't do that—you'll ruin it!" he said. "I'm sorry," said the preacher. "I guess I would spoil your perfect work if I tried to do something to it." "Indeed!" said the other. At this point the visitor put his arm around the cartwright's shoulder and quietly remarked "Friend, you seem to have more concern about your own work than you have about Christ's. Don't you see by attempting to add something to His finished salvation through your own poor efforts, you will only succeed in spoiling it all!" The man realized his mistake and was soon brought to a place of satisfied rest in the Lord Jesus Christ who completed the work necessary for our redemption two thousand years ago.

Sinner, there is nothing to do for salvation; it's given free to him who "worketh not, but believeth"! (Rom. 4:5).

—H.G.B.

Nothing, either great or small —

Nothing, sinner, no;

Jesus did it, did it all,

Long, long ago!

—J. Proctor

THOT: "Religion falsely tells us salvation is bound up with DOING SOMETHING; the Bible rightly tells us that it's all in RECEIVING SOMEONE!"
(See John 1:12.)

Read: Ephesians 5:1-8

November 2 — Friday

THE SIN MEN NEVER CONFESS

... beware of covetousness ...

Luke 12:15

A SHORT distance from our home there is a sign which reads: "Beware of the Dog!" It is a warning to all who approach. Jesus said, "Beware of covetousness." We might translate it: "Be wary; watch out and avoid it." Covetousness is the most subtle of all sins, it is the love of money and is called the ROOT of all evil. Money is not the root of all evil but the "LOVE" of it is the thing which is to be condemned.

What is your chief aim for today as you prepare for work? Is it to see how much money you can earn? Then you are a covetous person. As a counselor and pastor I have had many people come to me in confidence to confess some sin which was gnawing at their conscience until they just had to unburden it to someone. People will repentantly admit committing almost every kind of sin and crime, but I do not recall anyone ever confessing the sin of covetousness. Yet it is probably the most common of all sins and the ROOT of all evil. The Bible has more to say about this sin than any other. Covetousness was the first sin of man—desiring the forbidden fruit. The first death after Pentecost was occasioned by God's judgment upon this sin of "greed." Ananias and Sapphira were not struck dead because they had committed murder or adultery, or because they cursed and blasphemed, but because they COVETED and then lied about it.

Do you pride yourself on your moral, ethical character? Perhaps you don't steal, murder, lie, commit immoral acts, or drink; but—are you covetous? Jesus said to beware of this grievous evil, and Paul says it is the same as the sin of idolatry. (See Col. 3:5.) Today, be content with such things as ye have—BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS!

Your memory work for today is: Hebrews 13:5.

—M.R.D.

Lord, make us truly wise—

Contented with our lot,

And earthly joys despise,

Which soon will be forgot!

—Anon.

THOT: "Covetousness does not depend on how much you have, but rather on HOW MUCH YOU SET YOUR HEART ON WHAT YOU DO POSSESS!"

—M.R.D.

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!

*... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and
with fire.* Matathew 3:11

AT conversion the Lord kindles in our heart, by the Holy Spirit, a purifying heavenly fire which we are not to quench by worldliness and spiritual neglect. Rather we are to fan it to brighter flame through the oxygen of prayer and the fuel of consecrated living.

The marks of such a warm and sanctified life are evident in that it: (1) seeks the things of Christ — Philipians 2:21, (2) counts all earthly things but loss for His name's sake — Philippians 3:8, (3) lives unto Him — II Corinthians 5:15, (4) avoids worldly entanglements — II Timothy 2:4, and (5) aims only to please the Saviour — II Corinthians 5:9.

Such a life sheds forth beams of light to others from the sacred fire of the Holy Spirit within — is constantly letting the warming, purifying power of God consume its remaining, sinful dross — and is a "bright and shining light" in this dark world!

With A. B. Simpson we would pray:

"Burn on, O fire of God, burn on,
Till all my dross is burn'd away,
Till earth and sin and self are gone,
And I can stand the testing day."

Among the ancient Greeks, the runner who won the race was not the man who crossed the line in the shortest time, but the one who crossed it in the least time **with his torch still burning!** Often we are so busy with life's activities that we are in danger of allowing the torch of our spiritual life to become extinguished by sin and the cares of this world. It is only by prayer, Bible study, fellowship with other Christians, and zealous service, that we can **keep the fire burning!**

—H.G.B.

*God sent His mighty pow'r to this poor, sinful heart,
To keep me ev'ry hour, and needed grace impart;
And since His Spirit came, to take supreme control,
The love-enkindled flame is burning in my soul.*

—Delia T. White

THOT: "The most powerful weapon on earth is a human soul on fire for God!" —M.F.

MORE ADVICE TO PREACHERS

. . . all the people stood up.

Nehemiah 8:5

WHEN Ezra the preacher ascended his pulpit and opened the book of the law, all the people stood up.

I can think of a number of reasons why people might stand up when the Scriptures are read. First, it is a mark of respect for the Word of God. When our national anthem is played or the American flag is raised, we do the same. Another reason for standing up during a long service is to make it easier to stay awake. Ezra read in the book of the law for at least five hours (Neh. 8:3); yet there is no record that anyone fell asleep! When the Apostle Paul preached in Troas until midnight, a young fellow by the name of Eutychus fell fast asleep. However in this case the listener was "sitting" down. If he had been standing up he would not have fallen out of the window.

Maybe that is why preachers stand up to preach instead of sitting in the pulpit. They might go to sleep while they are preaching. Listen, friend preacher, don't be too hard on the folks in your audience who fall asleep under your sermon. Maybe you would fall asleep yourself if you were not standing up. If you have sleepers in your audience, be sure **YOU** are not to blame. It's a good plan to try and place yourself in the pew and see how your sermon would affect you. You can do it today just by listening to yourself on tape. I read the other day about a preacher who wanted to know how his sermon sounded to others. He made a tape and listened back carefully. The opening song, Scripture, and prayer seemed to be very fine, and even the offering was good! Then came the sermon which didn't sound too bad for the first three minutes — then **he woke up just as they were singing the closing hymn!** Have you ever tried it? It might help!

Your memory work for today is: II Corinthians 10:10.

—M.R.D.

*Like in baking a cake,
Many good sermons, too,
Are much better by far
For the "short'ning" 'tis true!* —G.W.

THOT: "We have two ears but only one mouth. We should listen twice as much as we talk."

—M.R.D.

Monday — November 5 Read: II Corinthians 12:1-10

GRACE SUFFICIENT!

... My grace is sufficient for thee ...

II Corinthians 12:9

A DEAR friend was recently bereaved of the companionship of his sweet Christian wife. The terrible scourge of cancer snatched her from his side at a time when one would expect her to be in the full bloom of life and vigor. I went to express my sympathy, but I was the one who came away spiritually warmed and richly blessed. I found the light of victory rather than tears in the eyes of her loved ones. With joy they testified of the great grace that had been Dorothy's abundant portion. Told by the doctor that she would soon die, she did not falter, but calmly and bravely carried on for her family. Having prayed that she might be a better witness for the Lord, she took it as God's answer when she became ill. She realized that many would come to see her, which would afford a wonderful opportunity not only to tell of His grace but also manifest it in her attitude. When someone told her that they had covenanted with the Lord to continue praying until she was miraculously cured, she thanked them gratefully, but then said, "I've been reading of Paul who also had a severe thorn in the flesh. After praying three times that it might be removed, he was given no assurance by the Lord that he would be cured, only that he would be given grace perfectly suited to his needs. I have come to the place where I too am no longer praying for God to cure me; I'm just asking that I may be given grace sufficient for whatever He in His good pleasure may choose to send me!"

Hers was not a fatalistic resignation to the will of God, but rather a spiritual **glorying in infirmities**. Her last days on earth were a precious testimony to the reality of her Saviour and a blessed benediction to all.

Have you, have I, come to the place of such confidence in God's perfect leading that we no longer beg and weep to be released from our trials and sicknesses, but rather trustingly ask for grace to meet them in a way which will bring glory to His name? Oh, may God grant to each of us this victory of "grace sufficient!"

—H.G.B.

Broken in body, I bowed my head,

Forgetting myself, by grace I said,

"Whatever comes, His will be done,"

And in that moment, peace was won! —Anon.

THOT: "Darkness only makes the lamp of grace shine brighter!"

Read: Romans 8:14-17

November 6 — Tuesday

FLIERS AND GLIDERS

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities . . .

Romans 8:26

I REACHED for my camera, for I must get a picture of that striking scene! There were hundreds of sea gulls, white and gray, lined up in a straight unbroken chain on the south edge of the pier jutting out into the lake. For a distance of two hundred feet they sat close beside each other. However, the unusual thing was that there were none on the north side, and still more strange they all were facing in the same direction. By what common purpose should they all line up like a group of competitors at the start of a race? I was soon to find out, for in the distance a fishing tug hove in sight; and as if at a given signal, the whole line of sea gulls just spread their wings, stepped off the breakwater, and sailed away without a flap or a flutter. They were not "fliers" but "gliders." They didn't have to fly, but allowed the wind to "lift" them. All had faced south, for the wind that day blew from the south.

Yesterday I revisited the pier. There was no wind then and the gulls were headed in every direction — on both sides of the pier. As they took off, they had to flap their wings vigorously and work hard to keep aloft.

Churches are like birds — they should soar into the heavens. Where the Spirit controls (wind and spirit are the same word in the Greek), there is need for a minimum of fleshly "flapping." The less of the Spirit, the more there will be of human organization, committees, boards, offices, program and secular activities in order to keep going. The more the Spirit has control, the less need for human schemes, gadgets, and entertainments. It is true of individuals too: If we be "led of the Spirit," we don't need "laws" to restrain us, but our service is spontaneous and easy, motivated by love. Take inventory: "Are you flapping or gliding?"

Your memory work (to be MEMORIZED) is Galatians 5:18.

—M.R.D.

Spirit of God, reign Thou within my heart;

Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;

Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,

And make me love Thee as I ought to love!

—Rev. Geo. Croly

THOT: "Let the Spirit have control and you will find that God's requirements are met by God's enablings!"

Wednesday — November 7

Read: Jude 1:10-21

"TRACK 2" AND "TRACK 7"

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied . . .
Jude 1:14

THERE are two Enochs mentioned in the Bible, and it is well that we keep them separate and distinct in our mind. Jude was concerned lest we mistake which one he was extolling as a hero of faith, and so he specifically says it was the "seventh from Adam," not the "second" (Gen. 4:17). One Enoch was in the godly line of Seth (Gen. 5:18), the other was in the evil line of Cain (Gen. 4:17).

The name Enoch means "teacher." Today there are many posing as expositors sent from God who cannot be trusted. They are, so to speak, on "Track 2" — the line of the cultists and the modernists who produce **division** among God's children, instead of being on "Track 7" with Enoch and those who preach God's **perfect message**.

These teachers in the tradition of Cain may have great "cities" of achievement named after them (Gen. 4:17) and be fathers of excellent artistic and cultural accomplishments (Gen. 4:21), but their efforts will eventually end in a "flood" of God's judgment. On the other hand, the godly Enochs may not be much appreciated as they present the truth and point a warning finger (Jude 1:14, 15), for they mince no words, but make it clear that the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour will result in flaming judgment for the unsaved.

We are told to "try the spirits whether they are of God," for every Enoch who sets himself up as "teacher" is not to be received (II John 1:9, 10). Test them by the Scripture to see if they are on the right track! Those on "Line 2" will manifest the error of their father Cain. They will be mixed up on the truths of the atonement, though they may try to hide it beneath the lovely "fruits" of religion. Those on "Line 7" may not be as pleasant to listen to, for they often speak of sin and a future fearful accounting at Christ's second coming. These, however, are God's messengers. Hear them!

—H.G.B.

Watch out for "false Enochs"

For subtle is their bait,

They'll charm and deceive you

Until it is too late!

—G.W.

THOT: "Error is subtle; some people think that if they have been ENTERTAINED they have been EDIFIED!"

—C. F. Hogg

Read: Acts 5:1-11

November 8 — Thursday

ARE YOU A LIAR?

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
Exodus 20:16

PLAINLY stated this verse means: "Don't tell lies." Lying is a sin which is mentioned along with stealing, swearing, murder and adultery. In Revelation, liars are classified along with murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, and idolaters (Rev. 21:8). Yet lying is one of the most common sins which men commit, and they think very little of it. Persons who would shrink at the thought of stealing, adultery, or murder, will lie at the least provocation and add lie upon lie to cover up the preceding lies. The gravity of lying is emphasized by its incorporation in the Ten Commandments and the judgment visited upon Ananias and Sapphira.

One of the strangest things about lies is that they travel much faster than the truth. When you hear some favorable comment about a brother, it is seldom repeated; however, when some scandal is let loose, it flies like the wind! What is this strange "quirk" in human nature that is more quick to report an evil rumor than a virtuous fact? Gossiping is one of the most despicable sins, but when the gossipier peddles a lie, it is of all things the most abominable. And do you know it is almost just as bad to **listen** to rumors of gossip as to be the one who gossips? If the gossiping liar would find no one who would listen, it would soon stop. Every Christian owes it, not only to his neighbor, but also himself, to turn a rebuking deaf ear to rumor (whether true or false), or else make the scandal-monger face the victim of his poisonous tongue and prove his charges. **NEVER — NEVER — NEVER** encourage anyone who comes to you with "They say . . ." or "Have you heard?" or "Isn't it awful?" Mr. "They Say" is the biggest liar of all! **Don't listen to him!**

Your memory work for today is: Proverbs 17:4.

—M.R.D.

*It's strange what a gossiping tongue can do,
The things it can tell that were never true,
The happy homes it can pull right down,
The banner of lies it flings o'er a town;
It twists the threads in the skein of truth
And ruins the lives of age and youth!*

—A. B. Chapman, alt.

THOT: "A lie has wings but no legs; it cannot even stand up, but can fly faster than a bird!"

—M.R.D.

HIDDEN TALENTS

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth . . .

Matthew 25:25

OUR Lord in the latter part of Matthew 25 speaks of His second coming and the judgment to follow. However, He prefaces the remarks with two parables — one concerning the **virgins**, the other concerning the **talents**. In the first He speaks of the necessity of **expectantly awaiting His return**, in the second of the proper way to do this waiting, which is not in whiling away the hours in mystic contemplation, but **in working!** In the Saviour's absence, we are to employ the abilities and gifts with which He has endowed us. Not to render such service is to suffer loss at His judgment seat.

Love of ease and fear are the "shovels of excuse" with which many bury their talents, but such attitudes are sinful (Matt. 25:45; II Cor. 8:12).

An anonymous author has penned the following:

"The work of my hands was hidden, the strength of my soul seemed small — just a single, lonely talent that seemed of no use at all. Everyone else had so many to invest in different ways, but my one pitiful talent just grew smaller with passing days. So I buried my little talent completely out of sight. I left it there uncared for, until in a sudden fright I went in haste to get it and found it all dull with blight. But I polished that little talent with patient, tender care, and used it in the service of the wonderful Hearer of Prayer. The more I used my talent the greater became its power, but only constant usage made it glow through each passing hour. And that experience taught me a lesson, a lesson so very old: Our talents unused will diminish, but when used they increase many-fold!"

Use what talents you possess, no matter how insignificant they may seem. Remember, "The woods would be very silent if no birds would sing there except those who could sing the best!"

—H.G.B.

*The wee little things we do today
By tomorrow as stars may shine,
So, Lord, I'll give Thee my talents small,
And walk with my hand in Thine.*

—Pearl Halloway

THOT: "Those who hide their treasure on the earth cannot expect to find it later in Heaven!"

THE GREAT TEACHER

... *there is no new thing under the sun.*

Ecclesiastes 1:9

AN has never been able to invent anything new! All he has been able to do is DISCOVER things which had already existed. Every new thing in this highly technological age had its counterpart in creation, and everything man makes is from a previously existing model. The airplane is modeled after a bird, a submarine after a fish, radar after a bat, the camera after an eye, and dam-building follows the engineering principles first employed by the beaver. The microphone had for its original pattern the ear, while blind flying by instrument imitates that which had been done by homing pigeons for millenniums. A compass is but an imperfect copy of something in the tiny brain of a humming bird which induces it to migrate twice each year over mountains, deserts, and seas. And — we have just begun!

Scientists are trying to find out how an ant can carry on his back a load 100 TIMES GREATER than its own body weight. Imagine a 200-pound man walking off with a load of 20,000 pounds (10 tons) on his back!

Also under study is the structural secret of a stalk of wheat. What intrigues the researchers is the straw's ability to support upright the weight of its head at such a height. If the stalk were to be duplicated by men, using conventional building materials, it would collapse in a second.

What causes sap to be lifted from the root of a tree hundreds of feet into the air against gravity? And so we could go on. The more man discovers, the more he realizes how little he knows. In the same way, the more we study God's miraculous book, the Bible, the more we realize how little we know. Eternity itself will be the endless thrill of new discoveries about Christ and His Word.

Your memory work for today is: Matthew 24:35.

—M.R.D.

The precepts of the Lord are right;

Enlight'ning minds and hearts

His Word so filled with wonders great

The clearest light imparts!

—Anon.

THOT: "Those who think they know everything in the Bible, just reveal their own ignorance."

—M.R.D.

A CUP THAT RUNS OVER

... thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23:5

ONCE we are the Lord's sheep and have received His anointing Holy Spirit, our cup should constantly run over with spiritual joy. The "river of God is full of water" (Psa. 65:9; Psa. 36:8, 9), and our heavenly supply of peace and happiness is therefore certain unless we block the channel with the debris of willful sin and carnality.

The world may have its fleeting thrills of excitement, but only the Christian has true joy. Pleasure is dependent upon things and circumstances, but joy has a higher, invisible source; namely, the blessing of the Lord which "maketh rich" (Prov. 10:22). The world cannot provide abiding happiness; it offers only the "pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25). The more a sinner seeks sensual satisfaction, the more frustrated his starved soul becomes. The higher the wall of self-gratification is built, the deeper becomes the reservoir of human need. When a pint of pleasure gave momentary happiness yesterday, a gallon of excitement and thrills is necessary for the same effect tomorrow. In the end these hopeless efforts often result in broken lives, shattered dreams, and perhaps even a suicide grave.

A father stood by the deathbed of a son who had always walked close to the Lord. "Do you have peace and joy, Frank?" he asked. "Oh," replied the happy young Christian who had been given dying grace, "it **has been peace and joy all along**, Father, but now Jesus has made it **overflowing!**" Yes, even when our faith is tried by the fires of adversity or chilled by the cold iciness of the shadow of death, we should be able to "rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8).

It is even as the old Scotsman testified after he had received the Lord Jesus as his Saviour, "I'm happier noo, when I'm no happy, than I wis afore when I wis happy!"

—H.G.B.

I've found the joy no tongue can tell,

How its waves of glory roll!

It's like a great o'erflowing well,

Springing up within my soul.

—Anon.

THOT: "Godliness and gladness are inseparable twins" (Psa. 97:11).

—H.G.B.

Read: John 16:25-33

November 12 — Monday

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

... in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation John 16:33

IN Jesus — peace; in the world — tribulation! What a strange verse indeed. Jesus had been preparing His disciples for their great disappointment at His going to the cross. They had expected Him to set up the kingdom, but now He announces His death and departure and they are troubled. Jesus comforts them with the promise of the Holy Spirit (vv.7-15) and His coming intercessory work at the right hand of the Father (v. 28). However, He also speaks to them of the trials and sufferings they will have to endure during His absence (v. 32). Then Jesus tells them how they can have peace **IN HIM** while experiencing tribulation **IN THE WORLD**. This is the lesson we too must learn. Someone has aptly written:

“No **LIFE** is lived without times of hardship, pain, and discouragement. All of us are not equally troubled, but no matter how great our trial, there are always others more deeply afflicted.

“People in famine-stricken lands see their children waste away and die for want of bread. People with material comforts many times know the rack of mental distress. Yet, those with fewest hardships are not the most favored. Overcoming handicaps and meeting obstacles with courage make character. It is not the difficulties, but the power gained by rising above them, that builds greatness and a place of leadership.

“The lives of many great men and women of history were filled with struggles and failures. They met adversity with an unwavering belief that their lives were of greater moment than their difficulties. To them, hardships and discouragements were foes to overcome. They fought, and with each victory gained power for life and accomplishment.”

Your memory work for today is: John 16:22.

—M.R.D.

*Though coming days be cold and dark
We need not cease our singing;
That perfect peace naught can molest
Which His sure love is bringing!*

—David Nelson, alt.

THOT: “The arduous climb up the mountain is fully rewarded by the beauty of the scene beyond.”

—M.R.D.

DECISION

... choose you this day whom ye will serve

Joshua 24:15

IT is said that a little west of Mount Zion, near the Jaffa gate of Jerusalem, there is a small area on the top of a watershed which is so level that the rain when it falls can go either way with equal ease. This unique plateau is called the **Terrace of Indecision**. A mere breath of wind can determine the flow of the water. Sometimes a part of it is carried over on the west side and descends into the Valley of Roses and down to the beautiful plain of Sharon. Verdant field, luscious fruit and fragrant flowers are the result. On the other hand, oftentimes a large portion of the water finds its way to the other side of the terrace and meanders down through the dark valley of Tophet to the Dead Sea where it is lost in the bitter waters of that unproductive area. Only the "apples of Sodom" grow in this distasteful region.

In life, too, there are many Terraces of Indecision, but eventually solemn choices must be made. Life and death, light and darkness, truth and error are set before us. The choice of one involves putting away the other; especially is this true in the spiritual realm. There is no such thing as offering one hand to God and another to the Devil. There are only two masters: God or mammon, the Saviour or sin. To each comes the challenge and invitation of Joshua—"Choose you this day whom ye will serve"! Your choice will bring you either to the Valley of Roses or to the Valley of Tophet. A decision for Christ means light, fruitfulness, and eternal life; the other choice will bring the fruits of Sodom and the bitter waters of eternal death! Choose you **THIS DAY!** —H.G.B.

God calling yet! I cannot stay;

My heart I yield without delay:

Vain world farewell! From thee I part;

The voice of God hath reached my heart.

—G. Tersteegen

THOT: "If God's time is too soon for your repentance, beware lest your time be too late for His acceptance."
—Adam Murrman

Read: Ephesians 3:13-21 November 14 — Wednesday

THE LAW OF LOVE

... to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge
Ephesians 3:19

THE more love, the less law; and the less love, the more law is needed. Where love reigns supreme, no laws, rules or commandments of proper conduct are ever needed. Love goes way beyond the demands of the law. The law is needed for servants, but "lovers" don't need it. A servant works for wages and no more. So we need to have rules and regulations. There must be an understanding of duties, hours of work, time off, overtime pay, sick leave, pension plan, social security, working conditions, and wages. If the servant puts in his time and does the work prescribed in the contract, he receives his pay and has no further obligations. He is required to do just so much as the agreement calls for and no more. That is law.

How different it is with the **love** of a mother. She needs no schedule of hours from 8 to 5 with an hour for lunch. She needs no guarantee of holidays off and two weeks' vacation with pay. She needs no contract or stipulated wages. She is motivated by love, knows no limitations of service, of hours or sacrifice. She punches no timeclock, nor does she grumble at some extra duty. Her service is one of love, and needs no law. A servant will do only as little as is required to honestly meet the terms of a legal contract, but love seeks to see how much more can be done. It does not say: "How little is enough?" but "How much can I give?"

Is your life for Christ governed by law or by LOVE? If you are under law you are obligated to keep it perfectly; if your labor is of love, you need never count the cost.

Instead of saying, "How much can I legally get?" the Christian should say, "How much can I lovingly give?"

Your memory work for today is: Galatians 6:10.

—M.R.D.

How much I owe for love divine!

How much I owe that Christ is mine!

But what He did for me, I know,

I cannot tell how much I owe!

—T. P. Hamilton

THOT: "People who want everything for nothing always kick the most about the quality." —M.R.D.

SOMEONE DIED FOR YOU!

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

ANY years ago a young mother was called upon to die heroically in order to save her only child — then but a little girl of three. When the youngster grew old enough to understand, she was told of the wondrous self-sacrifice that was needed to preserve her life. Deeply moved she asked to see a picture of the one who had saved her. It was back in the days before many photographs were taken and, sad to say, the only picture which had ever been made of her mother was in the hands of a distant friend. After some investigation, she located this aged acquaintance and asked about the photograph. Taking the young lady to an upstairs room, the elderly one pointed to a picture hanging on the wall and said, "That, dear, is your mother!" Bursting into tears the young girl exclaimed, "I live, because she died!" It was a touching scene, underscoring the height of human self-sacrifice. There is a greater story of love than that, however; it is the love of God not for His friends, but for rebellious sinners.

A study of the Scriptures reveals that the Lord Jesus died to expiate human guilt and to make reconciliation for the sins of mankind. He died for us as a sacrifice — a ransom — a substitute, that He might redeem us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (I Peter 3:18).

Have you ever believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and appropriated His grace? Can you testify with Paul: "He loved me, and gave himself for me"? There is no other way to peace, than this. Christ is the divine, loving, almighty "Someone" who died for you! —H.G.B.

In peace let me resign my breath,

And Thy salvation see;

My sins deserve eternal death,

But Jesus died for me!

—Dr. Valpy

THOT: "The Gospel of Jesus Christ may be free, but Someone had to pay an enormous price."

—Edmund Nelson

CHEERFULNESS OR FOOLISHNESS

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones. Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Proverbs 15:13

THERE are few persons who are more sickening and disgusting than the habitual, chronic "punster," the fellow who makes a joke out of everything and whose only ambition in life is to get laughs. And the worst of these "worst ones" is the one who laughs at his own silly jokes. Next to these "verbal quibblers" as pests, though at the opposite extreme of the emotional spectrum, are the chronic "gloom dispensers." There are some people who aren't happy unless they are unhappy. Always complaining and feeling so sorry for themselves, like Mrs. Sourpuess they enjoy a miserable existence.

Probably no mere human being ever suffered as much as the Apostle Paul. Read at your convenience the list of inconveniences of Paul in II Corinthians 11:23. Yet you will search in vain for a single hint of complaining or self-pity in all the record of his life. It was this man who suffered so intensely who admonishes us: "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:4). Today, let us practice cheerfulness and be occupied with our blessings — not our lack.

As I walk down the street, I meet a blind man and thank God for eyes; I meet a lame man and thank God for being able to walk. You can always find some reason for thankfulness if you only look for it. When all else fails, we can still rejoice that we are saved — **that is more important than all else!** It may be tough right now, but a hundred years from now it won't make any difference.

Your memory work for today is Philippians 4:4.

—M.R.D.

*Look ye saints within the veil,
And raise your happy song,
Your joys can never, never fail,
For you to Christ belong.*

—Anon.

THOT: "If you want to feel rich, count all the things you have that **MONEY CAN'T BUY!**" —M.R.D.

REVIVAL

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt
revive me* Psalm 138:7

MANY people who enjoy discussing revival in general don't like to get specific about it. Gipsy Smith was right when he said the best way to experience true revival is for each individual to go into his inner closet, draw a chalk mark around himself, and then pray that God will start the warm fires of sanctification burning within that circle.

A daily searching of the Scriptures and a constant practical application of these truths to our own life is the first requirement for individual revival. Jesus Himself underscored this when He said, "**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth**" (John 17:17). Prayer, exhibiting love to all the brethren, and using every opportunity to witness is also necessary. These are not only the means of revival, but also its increasing result.

Once when I was a boy of seven I had to take ether before some extremely painful work could be done on my crippled leg. My father was accorded the privilege of being in the room when the anesthetic was to be administered. He held my hand as they put the mask over my face. As I had never been "put to sleep" before, I was nervous. "Please, Doctor," I said, "could I see Daddy just once more?" Kindly the physician uncovered my eyes. Father smiled at me and said, "It's all right, Son; just take three deep breaths and when it's all over Daddy will still be here." His presence gave me confidence. I inhaled deeply and soon the ordeal was over. So, too, in the time of trouble God holds our hand, and if the eye of faith is clear and bright we see His kindly reassuring face and confidently go forward even though the suffocating "mask of difficulty" is pressed down upon us. **To find faith in God's promises sufficient for any trial is the test of true sanctification**, for the revived heart is ever the trusting heart! Do you know the intimate serenity of such fellowship? —H.G.B.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,

That bids our sorrows cease;

'Tis music in the sinner's ears,

'Tis life, and health, and peace. —Charles Wesley

THOT: "Revival is just a daily experience of a soul full of Jesus and running over!"

Read: Nehemiah 4:10-15

November 18 — Sunday

FAITHFUL WORKERS

... a man ... gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work

Mark 13:34

... we returned ... every one unto his work.

Nehemiah 4:15

THE work of the Lord and of the church should be well organized. Every member has certain abilities and talents which should be put to work! The success of the rebuilding of the Temple under Nehemiah was due to expert organization by those in authority. Too many churches today are struggling along because only a minority of its constituency are WORKERS. The rest of them act as though they were on "social security." In the parable of Jesus in Mark 13, the master went away and gave authority to His servants — to every man His work, and commanded the porters to watch. If we could utilize and organize the talents and abilities of the members of our churches, we could turn the community upside down.

The sad and painful fact is that we have so many "hitchhikers" who ride, but don't pull or push or even pay for the gas. How slow we are to respond to a call for teachers, personal workers, etc. There are numbers who are good, clever businessmen or women, but do not offer those same talents for the work of the Lord. We are aware of certain needs, but how long it takes us to bestir ourselves and meet those needs! It reminds one of the customer in the restaurant W-A-I-T-I-N-G for the waitress to come with the order. Finally she came, and the impatient gentleman asked, "Are you the same girl who took my order?" "Yes, sir," she replied. Looking her over he said, "Well, I do declare — you don't look a day older."

Do you want to make your pastor happy? Call him TODAY and tell him you are offering your time and talents for any work you can do. He may faint! — If he does, start serving by throwing cold water in his face. But — by all means wake up and do something!

Your memory work for today is: Romans 12:11.

—M.R.D.

Let none hear you idly saying,

"There is nothing I can do,"

For the souls of men are dying,

And the Master calls for you!

—Anon.

THOT: "Many are on the salvation train, but a lot of them are in the sleeping car!"

SLEEP

. . . the night, when deep sleep falleth on men.

Job 4:13

HAVE you ever dreamed of running swiftly or of working extremely hard? "How tired you must feel," would be the sympathetic reaction of a Brazilian Indian, for in his belief your soul left your body during the night and actually did everything you dreamed. We smile at such funny superstitions, but recent scientific investigation has revealed that many civilized Americans have equally strange ideas about these "nightly periods of unconsciousness." For instance, it is not true that "sleep before midnight is better than sleep after twelve o'clock." Also it is not true, as some people claim, that they never dream. Experiments indicate that everyone dreams for an average total of at least two hours nightly, though some are better than others at recalling these episodes. In specially equipped laboratories with delicate instruments, it has now been found that we sleep primarily to rest our brains, not our whole bodies as was formerly supposed. It is also not necessary to "make up sleep" in proportion to the hours that have been lost. According to Dr. Noah Cloan, medical director of a leading life insurance company, some subjects who were forced to stay awake for four or five days needed only ten or eleven hours of sleep to be fully refreshed.

While physical sleep is necessary, spiritual sleep is everywhere condemned in the Bible! We are "not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, but let us watch and be sober," says Paul (I Thess. 5:5, 6). Too many of God's servants, like Jonah, are snoozing when they should be engaged in spiritual activity. To these a world in distress is still calling, as did the mariners to that prophet of old, "What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, that we perish not"! (Jonah 1:6). Let us awake, gird on our armor, and do battle for God and the right!

—H.G.B.

*Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve,
And press with vigor on!*

*A heavenly race demands thy zeal,
And an immortal crown.* —Philip Doddridge

THOT: "Like Samson, when we fall asleep in the lap of the 'world' (Judges 16:19) our consecration and spiritual power is soon shorn from us." —M.E.

HOW HIGH IS A HILL?

Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Matthew 6:34

THIS verse does not rule out the use of reasonable common sense in planning for the future; it rather warns against anxious care and worry concerning things we imagine may come, but usually never do. We cannot plan ahead unless we have proper perspective, so this of course is not forbidden by our Lord.

We drove to the upper peninsula of Michigan one day soon after the 100-million-dollar bridge was completed over the Straits of Mackinac. As we caught the first glimpse of this breath-taking triumph of engineering, I was completely surprised to see the road apparently going **straight up!** The bridge seemed so steep it was almost perpendicular and I wondered how a car could negotiate the grade. As we came closer, however, the whole thing seemed to drop and level off and the steep foreboding wall resolved itself into a gradual, gentle incline. It was all a matter of perspective. From a distance we could only see the height of the bridge, but **not** the length. So it is with our days! As we look ahead and see the obstacles, they appear insurmountable, but when we get to them they often "flatten out."

Mrs. I. M. Anxyus worried about dying from cancer. She heard milk was bad so she stopped drinking milk. She was told fruit sprayed for insects produced cancer so she quit eating fruit. Someone said pork caused cancer so she didn't eat that either. At 57 she died in an auto accident which she had never worried about. What's the use anyway? Most of the things we worry about never happen. Turn your worries over to the Lord who knows the end from the beginning!

Your memory work for today is: Psalm 71:1.

—M.R.D.

*When every care in simple prayer
Is to God's footstool brought,
We have no ground, whereon to found
One single, anxious thought!* —Anon.

THOT: "Trouble, like the hill ahead, straightens out when you advance upon it."

Wednesday — November 21

Read: Psalm 67

GLAD OR GRATEFUL

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me . . .

Psalm 50:23

SOMEONE has said, "The greatest sum in addition is to count your blessings!" This is true! Yet once we have enumerated these gifts of God we are to do more than just sit back and smile contentedly. The Lord wants us to take a little time off to **praise Him for His love and kindness toward us!**

Stanford Cobb, a missionary to the Middle East, once said to his friend, "Do you ever feel thankful when God blesses you?" "Always!" "Did you ever stop to tell Him so?" "Come to think of it, I don't know that I have." "Well, try it, my young friend, try it! **It's not enough to be glad; God expects you also to be grateful!** Tell Him how much you love Him, how much you appreciate His manifold gifts." Then missionary Cobb added significantly, "And when you praise Him for His blessings, be sure to do so **aloud** so that you will hear it yourself — it will give you a fresh blessing!" His young friend later confessed, "I took that dear brother's advice and have been telling the Lord ever since how much I appreciated His love. My soul has found much help and comfort in this practice."

Of course you are delighted when God showers you with His many mercies; **who would not be glad?** However, examine yourself to see if you are **really grateful as well!**

General George Patton of the American Third Army often went out of his way to minister to the comfort and convenience of his men; however, only one ever bothered to write him a letter of appreciation. Think if it! In thirty-five years of service — only one word of gratitude! Human nature is so lacking in this grace that parents constantly have to remind their children after they have received some gift, "Now, Johnnie, what do you say?" Our Heavenly Father, too, often waits in vain for our words of thanks.

Have you blessed God for blessing you? Remember, the Lord says through the Psalmist, "**Whoso offereth praise GLORIFIETH me!**" **Don't just be glad — be grateful!**

—H.G.B.

O Thou whose bounty fills our cup

With every blessing meet,

We give Thee thanks for every drop,

The bitter and the sweet!

—Anon.

THOT: "Hem your blessings with praise lest they unravel!"

WE THANK THEE LORD

*It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD,
and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.*

Psalm 92:1

THANKSGIVING DAY originally was designated and set aside to show gratitude to God for **material** blessings. It was to praise God for a harvest of food, for shelter, clothing and the necessities of life. And yet those early settlers had very little in the way of material things beyond the bare needs for their existence. Yet with the little they had they were greatly thankful. Today with all the luxuries we enjoy, I fear we are less thankful than they.

It is a strange thing, but I have often noticed that those who have least are most thankful, and those who have abundance are often so dissatisfied. We are so prone to take things for granted. However, as believers we must recognize that we have **nothing**, and therefore whatever we receive, no matter how little it may be, is still the **undeserved** grace of God and should be cause for thanks.

On this Thanksgiving, however, the greatest cause for praise should be the provision of our God for eternity, even more than His provision for the temporal needs. David says, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises." Do you feel like singing praises to God today? We'll do a lot of it in Heaven so it would be well to begin practicing here. But you say, "I can't sing." David thought of that too and then says, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psa. 100:1). If you can't "sing" His praises, then just make a **happy noise**! It may not sound good to the ears of earthly musicians, but will be music in God's ears.

Are you thankful today? **Make some noise!**

Your memory verse for today is: Psalm 100:5.

—M.R.D.

*We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee,
We bless Thy holy name, glad praises we sing!*

—Trans. by Julia B. Cady

**THOT: "Anything outside of Hell is still the grace of God
— be THANKFUL!"**

—M.R.D.

TASTING AND TRUSTING

O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Psalm 34:8

(P) NCE you taste the things of the Lord you will know something of His grace and goodness, but only as you take the next step of completely trusting Him will you know the full blessedness of being His child. **Taste** and you will know His **grace**; **trust** and you will know His **joy**!

Many years ago in one of the steel mills in Pittsburgh, several men were employed in the operation of a giant blast furnace. On a platform ninety-six feet above the ground, three of them were stationed to keep a sharp lookout on the important operation of burning off the poisonous gas which issued from the top of that mammoth steel caldron. A Christian who had once worked there had tacked up a motto on the wall nearby on which were printed in colors the words of our text, but the unsaved employees who chewed tobacco had used it as a target so that its gracious invitation was almost illegible. One day the flame which consumed the deadly fumes of the furnace became extinguished, and two of the men, inhaling the unburnt gas, immediately fell unconscious. The third employee had a match in his pocket, but the chance of his being able to ignite the poisonous mixture with such a small flame was so remote as to be hardly worth the effort. As he frantically glanced about him, his eye fell on the much-abused motto: "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that **trusteth in him**." Like a flash he cried out for mercy, and vowed that he would give himself fully to the Lord should his unworthy life be spared. He felt himself growing weaker, but managed to light the match. With his last strength he threw it into the deadly fumes as he fell unconscious alongside his two comrades. Contrary to all expectations, the gas ignited. The other men died, but the one who sought divine aid was revived. He had tasted that the Lord was good, and true to his vow went on to fully trust the Saviour.

—H.G.B.

O taste and see that God is good

To all that seek His face;

Yea, blest the man who trusts in Him,

Confiding in His grace.

—Anon.

THOT: "Tasting and trusting — the appetizer and main course of God's blessing — ever leads to the dessert of full spiritual contentment!" —G.W.

Read: I Corinthians 14:6-9 November 24 — Saturday

SIMPLE BUT NOT SIMPLE-MINDED

... *Lo, now speakest thou plainly* . . . John 16:29

WHEN we were children, we often used a strange language called "pig Latin," a juggling of words so that the ones outside our "circle" wouldn't know what we were talking about. Sometimes I feel that we Christians unwittingly use "pig Latin" in witnessing to sinners. We use words and terms which mean nothing to them. If we talk so people can't understand us, we might better be silent. I remember one person who came to me all upset after having been dealt with by a personal worker. This well-meaning Christian had asked her to pray and confess her sins, but then confused the seeker by exclaiming, "Now don't you see the light?" She said to me, "I didn't see any light; what did she mean?"

If today some seeking soul should come to you and ask you to explain to him or her how to be saved, could you in plain understandable language tell that soul how to receive Christ? or would you just say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ"? You might get the answer, "What do you mean — 'Believe on Jesus Christ'? I have always believed the Bible and what it said about Jesus, but I have never been converted." Could you explain to that seeking soul **WHAT BELIEVING ON CHRIST REALLY MEANS?** If you are saved, you should be able to tell how **YOU** were saved. Too much of our talk is unintelligible. Too often we want to appear "profound" when we ought to strive for simplicity. I am always glad when a little child responds to our invitation, for then I know **if a child understood me** — surely it was simple enough for all. Be plain; be clear — simple, but not simple-minded.

Friend wife suddenly said, "Dad, what did you do with that 'dohickey' you used to fix that 'doodad' — that 'what-d'you-call-it' over 'you-know-where'?" I replied, "I put it in with that 'rigamajig' thing for fixing that 'you-know-what-I-mean' " — oh, well why go on? You see my point! Be sure you speak plainly, especially when it comes to the important things of the Word!

Your memory work for today is: I Corinthians 14:8.

—M.R.D.

Tell it o'er and o'er again;

Christ receiveth sinful men;

MAKE THE MESSAGE CLEAR AND PLAIN:

Christ receiveth sinful men!

—Neumaster

THOT: "It is easy to talk, but saying something is harder."

—M.R.D.

Sunday — November 25

Read: Daniel 6:1-23

OF SPINE AND SPIRIT

... Daniel was preferred ... because an excellent spirit was in him

Daniel 6:3

CHARLES H. SPURGEON when speaking on this passage told the true story of a class of youngsters who were having a Scripture lesson on Daniel. One of the boys was asked to read the sixth chapter aloud. When he came to verse three and the words "because an excellent spirit was in him," by mistake he rendered it, "because an excellent **spine** was in him." Spurgeon pointed out that while undoubtedly it was bad reading, it was excellent theology, for Daniel was a man of real backbone — strong and courageous in doing the right!

As Christians we are to have principle and plenty of spiritual fortitude. However, it makes a lot of difference the manner in which we present the truth and champion the cause of the Lord. Daniel sets us an admirable example. He did not become belligerent nor stoop to rabble rousing in taking his stand. Prayerful, calm, and spiritual in his conduct, he commanded respect. We too should so live that the worldly man will see in us an "excellent spirit." Our actions should be such that they enhance and give weight to our testimony. King Darius recognized that Daniel was more than just a godly man; he had a practical spirituality that had worked its way into the warp and woof of his character so that dignity, knowledge and enthusiasm were properly balanced. Zeal that degenerates into fanaticism is seldom effective; in fact, it often makes one a reproach to the cause of Christ. Pious phrases which are not backed up by a sanctified personality and a sterling character have little effect upon the world.

Let us mix piety and courage with cheerfulness and character! As He did for Daniel, God will then give to us the needed strength when we face temptation, that we may overcome sin (Dan. 1:8; 6:22). Stand up for spiritual principles, but do so graciously. Combine "spine" with an "excellent spirit."

—H.G.B.

Dare to be a Daniel,

Dare to stand alone!

Dare to have a purpose firm!

Dare to make it known! —P. P. Bliss

THOT: "An important part of being right is the gracious willingness if necessary to patiently wait for God to prove it!"

—R.M.

TWISTING GOD'S ARM

... because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. Luke 11:8

HAVE you read the Scripture (Luke 18:1-8) suggested at the beginning? It will take exactly 45 seconds. If you cannot spare 45 seconds, don't bother reading what I have written. Just take your coat and hat and go. What God says is infinitely more important than what I have to say ABOUT God's Word. So if you are too busy to spend 45 seconds in the Word, then goodbye — have a miserable day! But for the rest of you — listen!

The parable of the unjust judge is generally misunderstood. The judge did not want to grant the widow's request, but because she drove him crazy with her constant begging, and because of her importunity, he granted her request, just to get rid of her. Over and over we hear folks use this as an encouragement to keep on praying: "Don't give up! Pray through until God finally answers your prayer." However, the very opposite is true. Jesus tells us that the judge didn't want to help the widow, but in order to get rid of her, he conceded. The word "importunity" is translated as "impudence" in my concordance, and means "shameless persistence." The widow kept twisting the judge's arm till he yielded out of desperation, against his will. Our God, however, is not an unjust Judge, but a loving Father. God is anxious to hear and help us! We don't have to twist His arm or talk Him into it. If the unjust judge yielded, then "shall not God avenge his own elect? . . . I tell you He will avenge him speedily." God does not have to be overpowered or worn out with our persistent petitions before He blesses us. The way some Christians carry on in prayer, screaming and pleading, one would think God is dead or asleep and must be forced to listen to us like the unjust judge, against His will. The power in prayer is **faith**, not outward demonstration.

Your memory work for today is: Luke 11:9. —M.R.D.

*I know not by what methods rare
But this I know — God answers prayer.*

*I leave my prayers with Him alone
Whose will is wiser than my own.* —L. C. Henson

THOT: "Elijah's short prayer of faith did more than a whole day of screaming by the priests of Baal" (see I Kings 18). —M.R.D.

PIETY AT HOME

... let them learn first to show piety at home . . .

I Timothy 5:4

THE test of a person's spirituality is not how he prays in the meeting, or testifies on the street corner, but how he lives at home! Some years ago a Lutheran calendar carried the following true story:

"Five young men once left their homes in Western Pennsylvania for the great Northwest. One returned years later seemingly stronger because of the experience through which he had passed. When asked the reason why he had not gone the downward way of the other four, he replied, 'Because I carried with me a picture of my Christian home. I remember the last morning we were together. We all sat down to breakfast as usual; Father was at one end of the table and my precious mother at the other. Realizing that there was to be a breaking of home ties within a few hours, conversation was not very brisk that morning. After breakfast, as was my father's custom, he took the old family Bible and started to read the morning lesson. But he didn't get very far. A lump kept coming up in his throat, and he was so blinded by tears that he could not read. After Mother finally finished the chapter, we knelt to pray. Father started his prayer, but he hadn't gotten very far until that same lump came up in his throat and choked back further expression. Then Mother reached over and put her hand on my shoulder and began to pray. It was the vision of that last morning in the atmosphere of a godly home, and the remembrance of my precious mother's prayer which steered me right. I could not bear the thought of breaking the heart of my father and mother, and dishonoring my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ whom they had taught me to love.'"

Does your home face toward the Father's House? Your conduct there is the yardstick by which your children measure your spirituality!

—H.G.B.

*Yea, every house where love abides
And Christ is honored Guest*

*Is ever blessed, and home, sweet home,
For there is Heaven's best!*

—M.E.

THOT: "ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT — can be found in even the smallest home!"

Read: Luke 24:13-34

November 28 — Wednesday

TRANSFORMING POWER

. . . Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

Luke 24:32

. . . the power of his resurrection . . .

Philippians 3:10

TWO travelers are returning from Jerusalem on their way home to Emmaus. Tragedy, sorrow, bitter disappointment and frustration is written on their faces. They trudge wearily along as they recount the shattered hopes of the past few days. The One whom they had looked upon as the promised Messiah was dead, and with His death all their aspirations had also died. Sadly they continued to talk of the heartbreaking events of recent days. Although their destination was seven miles distant, they were in no hurry, for there was nothing to go home to nor would they soon return as before: Jesus was dead!

Then something happened! A Stranger walked beside them. He was touched by their sadness and enquired sympathetically about the cause. He tried to comfort, and even rebuked them as He opened up the Scriptures to their understanding. The Stranger accepted their invitation to have a bite to eat, and, as they sat at the table, took bread and broke it. Then as He passed it to them, they saw! Yes, they saw wounds in His hands. It is the Lord! He is risen! Then, just as suddenly, He is gone! Gone too is their gloom—gone the despair—gone the sadness! They had seen the risen Lord! It was almost seven miles back to Jerusalem, but that was unimportant. They must go, they must tell it: The Lord is risen! This is the “power of the resurrection”—**it must be told!** The vision of a risen Christ banished weariness and made them forget distances and personal sacrifice.

We too may linger at the cross, but a dead Christ only leaves gloom and despair; however, a vision of the living Lord inspires, energizes, activates, and changes our trudging into running!

Your memory verse for today is: Philippians 3:10.

—M.R.D.

Jesus has arisen victorious from the dead,

He who went to Calv'ry and for guilty sinners bled;

Prophets long foretold it, saints in joy behold it,

Jesus has arisen; yes, He's risen as He said! —H.G.B.

THOT: “It is not a crucifix — a dead Christ on a cross, but an empty tomb which is the symbol of the Gospel.”

—M.R.D.

BALAAM'S PIOUS WISH

... Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!
Numbers 23:10

THIS was Balaam's wish—but contrary to the words of an old popular song, "Wishing Will NOT Make It So." Balaam died unrepentant on the side of Israel's enemies. His "last end" was a violent one (Num. 31:8). Many an equally pious wish has been frustrated by an evil life. It is one thing to desire to escape eternal punishment and in an emotional moment make high resolves for the future; it is quite another thing to suit appropriate action to such good wishes and by faith receive God's salvation and live a new and holy life. Hell will be full of people like Balaam, for the hope of unjust men and hypocrites shall perish. (See Prov. 11:7; Job 8:13.)

Those who have witnessed the death of Christians and of unbelievers can testify that there is certainly a difference in the way they leave this world. A Christian soldier was once gravely wounded. The surgeon who was called in to operate told him frankly he had only one chance in a hundred to live. The young man offered a brief prayer, and then said, "Go ahead, Doctor, I am not afraid." Almost miraculously he came through the experience. To a friend who asked him afterward how he felt when he submitted himself to the surgeon, the Christian young man replied, "I knew it was all right, for whichever side I came out, there would be a welcome for me. If I came back, Mother would be there, and if I went on ahead, Jesus would be waiting to meet me!" What a contrast to the unbeliever Hobbs who cried out with his last breath, "I am taking a fearful leap into the dark!"—or to that well-known infidel Adams who tore his hair and clutched his breast in abject fear in his final moments. With his eyes starting from their sockets, he shouted, "I am lost! . . . lost! Lost!"—and fell back upon his bed, a glaring corpse.

Oh, that it might someday be said of us as it was of the blessed departed mentioned in the Hebrews' Hall of Fame: "These all died in faith!" —H.G.B.

I want to be ready to go!

When storms are all past,

He shall call me at last;

I want to be ready to go! —F. Huston

THOT: "Living without God means dying without hope!"

Read: John 9:1-25

November 30 — Friday

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

*. . . one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind,
now I see.* John 9:25

THE word KNOW occurs eleven times in this one chapter. The man who had been healed of blindness says, "One thing I KNOW." Three times the word is used by his parents. They said, "We know that this is our son, but by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not." Three times the word is used by the Scribes and Pharisees. They said: (1) "We know that Jesus is a sinner." (2) "We know that God spake unto Moses." (3) "We know not from whence Jesus is." They knew some things, but the one important thing they did not know — whence Jesus was!

In the case of the healed man, the situation is reversed. There were some things he didn't know, but one thing he did know! The man did NOT know where Jesus was. He didn't know much theology, for he said, "Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not." One thing he knew — whereas he was blind, now he saw! While he could not explain where Jesus was and knew very little about Him, he had had a real, definite encounter with Him. He could say, "One thing I know . . . I was blind, now I see." It is not knowing a great deal ABOUT Jesus, but rather knowing HIM by personal experience which counts! The Scribes and Pharisees knew their theology and set themselves up as judges of Jesus, but they knew HIM NOT. This poor blind man was ignorant of many things and he admitted his lack of knowledge, for he said, "Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: ONE THING I KNOW" I am sure this man learned all he could about Jesus AFTER his healing, for he worshiped Him (John 9:38).

It is not the amount of knowledge, but our faith which saves! Most people know too much to be saved; they are too smart! If you know you are a sinner and that Jesus died and rose for you, you know enough to be saved. You can't be saved by study, but by faith!

Your memory work for today is: Job 11:7. —M.R.D.

I KNOW that my Redeemer lives!

What comfort this sweet message gives!

He lives to bless me with His love,

I KNOW He pleads my cause above!

—Rev. S. Medley, alt.

THOT: "An ounce of 'know so' is worth a ton of 'hope so.'"

An Important P. S.

PERHAPS this is the first issue of OUR DAILY BREAD you have seen; then again, you may have read scores of these devotional guides. In either case we want you to know of our sincere interest in you PERSONALLY, especially in regard to your spiritual needs. In the pages of this booklet you will therefore find the way of salvation clearly set forth, as well as a wide variety of meditations to nourish the "inner man."

If the Holy Spirit should incline your heart to an acceptance of Christ as Lord and Saviour through these meditations, we would be pleased if you would fill in the blank below and mail it to us, so that we may rejoice with you, and pray intelligently for your growth in grace as you seek to live for God's glory!

If you are troubled about your soul or in doubt about your eternal destiny, feel free to ask our help. One of the editors will answer you PERSONALLY.

Yours in His Love,

THE EDITORS:

M. R. DeHAAN

HENRY G. BOSCH

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Having looked to Christ for salvation, and called upon Him according to His Word in Romans 10:9 which says: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved,**" I now rest upon his certain promise that I can never be lost. For having begun a new work of grace in me, He who cannot lie has declared that He will complete it, and preserve me, "until the day of Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I now desire additional free literature on salvation and the Christian life. ....

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